

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1-5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding a peptide immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 proteins, comprising an epitope of the VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 protein, encoded within the EBV open reading frames BFRF3 and BDRF1, respectively and wherein said antibodies are antibodies having the same reactivity with VCA-p18 as antibodies produced by the hybridomas deposited at the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures under deposit numbers 93020413 or 93020412 or antibodies having the same reactivity with VCA-p40 as antibodies produced by the hybridoma deposited at the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures under deposit number 93020414.

7. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.

8. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein.

9. (Previously presented) A vector molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6.

10-25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously presented) A vector molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 7.

27. (Previously presented) A vector molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 8.

28-31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes 12 contiguous amino acids of an Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein and wherein said 12 contiguous amino acids comprise an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.

33. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes 12 contiguous amino acids of an Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein and wherein said 12 contiguous amino acids comprise an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein.

34. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, ~~comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising the~~ encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:6 or a combination of both, wherein said ~~peptide~~amino acid sequence is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.